

Preserve humanitarian relief from deportation for long-term permanent residents and others who have extensive family and community ties in the United States;

Hold public meetings to better know the needs and concerns of your constituents, prior to passage of legislation.

Please consider and remember during your legislative deliberations that when a long-term permanent resident is deported, we have personally witnessed the following:

United States citizen children who are minors have been compelled to accompany a deported parent in order to maintain the family unit;

A United States citizen child never has the same opportunities for education and economic well being in his or her parent's home land as he or she would have in the U.S.

Families have been irreparably broken up; Youngsters have lost parents and great emotional harm has resulted;

Aged parents have lost the solace and company of a son or daughter who is deported and have no hope of seeing that child again;

Families have lost their major breadwinner and have been forced to turn to public benefits for relief;

We can not imagine why Congress would single out these vulnerable groups among us and tamper with their well being and their family unity. We wonder if the members of Congress spoke with their constituents before passage of such far reaching legislation. We wonder if you remembered that we are a nation of immigrants and that it is our diversity which has made us strong?

If you doubt the contribution of immigrants to this country, we invite you to visit our communities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. There you will see how we have transformed run-down urban neighborhoods in Fall River, New Bedford, Cambridge, Somerville, Peabody, and Taunton, as well as Providence, East Providence, Bristol, Tiverton, West Warwick into clean, safe, updated, family neighborhoods.

Even though some of us speak with an accent, and have names that may be hard to spell or pronounce, we are nonetheless, voters and tax payers, and we own businesses and property, we are also educators, public officials and public servants, as well as doctors and lawyers and, if you visit the factories in our communities you will see that we are the backbone of the work force. We are also the mothers, fathers, children, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and cousins of legal permanent residents who have been hurt by the recent legislation and as such, the laws have hurt us as well.

We urge you ladies and gentleman of Congress to remember the plight of the immigrant during the deliberations of the 105th Congress and to ameliorate the present legislation.

Respectfully submitted, Forum Acoreano—U.S.A. Board of Directors.

ALFREDO ALVES,
President.
MANUEL ESTRELLA,
Secretary.
MARIA PINHEIRO,
Vice President.
ARTHUR TAVARES,
Treasurer.

HONORING AMBASSADOR
LILJEGREN OF SWEDEN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I come before this body today to both bid good bye and to

give special recognition to the accomplishments of Sweden's Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Henrik Liljegen. He has proven himself to be a skillful and resourceful diplomat.

My colleagues will remember that Ambassador Liljegen arrived in the United States over 4½ years ago. Among his many accomplishments was his active involvement in 1993 of removing Soviet troops from the Baltic States of Europe. Many of you will also recall his work with the Clinton administration to help these Baltic States integrate into the West. He was successful in both of these endeavors. These efforts helped the United States and Sweden seize a narrow window of opportunity to enhance the national interests of both nations. Through his efforts in the Baltic States, working in coordination with the United States, Ambassador Liljegen helped President Clinton achieve one of his first foreign policy successes.

While Washington's official diplomatic community will truly miss Ambassador Liljegen, Washington society will also miss his charming wife, Nil. She is one of those rare flowers who is truly beautiful and intelligent.

As they both depart for the Ambassador's next assignment in Turkey, I would like to extend to him the very best wishes of the United States House of Representatives.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, along with the vast majority of Americans, I strongly support the Social Security program and believe that we have a responsibility to make it financially secure for generations to come.

When I am in my congressional district, I see this highly successful program at work. More than 63,000 residents of my district receive a Social Security benefit every month. Social Security provides a guaranteed benefit to 99 percent of retirees in the United States. Social Security provides a secure base for senior citizens and allows their children to concentrate more financial resources on their own families.

However, we all realize that Social Security has a financing problem that we must address. The sooner we resolve it, the less drastic the solutions and the greater the lead time for people to adjust for their own retirement. I do want to point out, however, that we have time to discuss and decide on wise and prudent adjustments. In 1983, the Social Security trust fund would have been insolvent in 2 months if Congress had not acted. Today, we have 30 years to avoid a similar situation.

Radically altering the system is not warranted—the projected shortfall in the trust fund can be fixed with relatively minor changes to the system. Privatization and gambling with retirement income is not the answer. The Social Security Administration has been aware of the problem posed by the retirement of the baby boom generation for decades. Social Security has faced challenges in the past and can face this challenge of the future without dismantling the entire system.

As we search for solutions to Social Security's long-term problems, we should think about the features of the program that work. Foremost among them is the availability of benefits to all workers who earned them, regardless of income. Therefore, I agree with the Social Security Advisory Council that we should reject means testing. Tying benefits to need sends the wrong message to workers and beneficiaries—a signal that if they save for retirement, their Social Security, to which they are currently contributing, could be reduced or lost.

In addition, the program's progressive benefit formula already differentiates between those who are more highly compensated and those who are not. Lower wage workers currently receive a greater return on their payroll taxes than average and high earners. This practice works, but additional tilting away from those who earn more could punish productivity and create the impression that Social Security is somehow a welfare program. Nothing could be further from the truth.

On the other hand, privatization would tilt the Social Security program far away from lower wage workers, by introducing a huge element of uncertainty into the economy and into a retiree's monthly income. Therefore, we must reject this change. Social Security currently is the secure portion of a retirement portfolio. An individual's savings and investments now are the risk-taking segment. Privatizing makes Social Security and an individual's retirement income subject to the whims of the stock market and the skills, or lack thereof, of a person's financial advisor. In short, gambling with our seniors' future livelihoods is unacceptable.

With privatization, we would be placing all of our retirement eggs in one unstable basket—risking scrambling all of our retirement plans.

Proponents of privatization suggest that it will promote national savings, but shifting payroll taxes from the Social Security trust funds into individual accounts does not increase the national savings by one penny.

Misinformation regarding Social Security has been spread by powerful groups determined to turn the entire fate of America's retirees over to Wall Street. In contrast, making reasonable modifications to restore Social Security's long-term imbalance is a more sound and prudent course.

Let me repeat—we have time to fix the problems. Social Security has stood the test of time and has proven to be a fair and successful program. We do not need to rush into unknown waters with privatization and other radical proposals. Our seniors and future seniors deserve to have this body take a moderate and deliberative approach to altering a program that has served so many so well.

NATIONAL GUARD HONORED

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women of the National Guard were honored at the world premier of Charles Gabriele's "National Guardian's March" presented in Venice, FL, on May 19, 1997 at a concert of the Venice Concert Band directed

by Bill Millner. The National Guard in recent years served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Florida in the aftermath of Hurricane Andrew and Hurricane Opal.

During the concert, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Steven Solomon, Commander of 83d Troop Command, presented the Venice Concert Band and Professor Gabriele each with a framed certificate of appreciation "for exceptional service to the Army National Guard." Gabriele is noted worldwide for his classical compositions and patriotic marches, such as "Korea Veterans March," which was performed by the U.S. Army Band for the dedication of the Korea War Memorial in Washington, DC. Also during the program Sarasota County Commission Chairman Robert Anderson presented the Venice Concert Band and Dr. Gabriele with commendations; and city of Venice Vice Mayor David Farley, Councilmen Earl Midlam, Burt Brown and Virginia Warren presented them with commendations and a flag of the city of Venice.

Members of the band who performed in the historic premier of the "National Guardian's March" were: Renee Arata, Marilyn Bay, Jan Bonds, Henry Busche, Russell Byron, Fred Capitelli, Harokl Chase, Rogers Cumming, Carmelo Cuscina, Vicki Elmore, Mary Ann Farrell, Jay Fish, Judson, Vincent Gigliotti, Harry Gilmore, Les Gowan, Ed Gremp, Charles Heidorn, Willie Jacus, Bob Kaltenbaugh, David Leath, Carl Linden, Mary Lipton, Julie Mahler, Robert McMullen, Les McRea, Alex Meldrum, Bill Meyer, Rex Morse, Shirley Morse, Mary Mullen, George Olisar, Stanley Ovaitt, Fred Ploch, Marilyn Sexton, Jane Sibole, Larry Shields, Ken Sotherlund, Bob Spangle, Missy Thornley, Connie Timm, Michael Torino, Basil Wanshula, Agnes Warfield, Roger Wolfe and Don Yasso.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in applauding this well-deserved tribute to the National Guard.

A MAN TO BE ADMIRER

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who truly embodies the community spirit so valued by all Americans. A good friend to many of us, Robbie Callaway has enriched and enhanced the lives of countless children in his own community and across the Nation. His outstanding accomplishments, especially those with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America, and inspiring commitment to future generations should be recognized and appreciated.

After graduating from the University of Maryland in 1973, Robbie began his lifelong ambition to help disadvantaged children succeed in our challenging and ever-changing world. He first was a counselor at the Caithness Shelter Home, and later was appointed deputy director of the Boys and Girls Homes of Montgomery County, MD.

In 1991, Robbie became senior vice president for government relations for the Boys and Girls Clubs of America. Since Robbie's appointment on a national level, he has more than doubled the number of youths whom the Boys and Girls Clubs network serves. He also

played a key role in obtaining funds from various Federal agencies, so much that the funds received by the national organization made a dramatic increase from \$50,000 in 1991 to an astounding and well-deserved \$36 million during 1996.

Not only has Robbie performed his job at the Boys and Girls Clubs of America with dedication and competence, he displayed instrumental precision in acquiring funds from various Federal agencies for other programs to aid children. His work and leadership for the construction and growth of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and his current service as vice chairman of their board of directors is just one shining example of his efforts. His expertise continues to be vital to the success of this program.

Robbie has influenced a number of Federal laws which affect America's youth including the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, the Child Protection Act, the Anti-Drug Abuse Act, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act, the National and Community Service Act, and the Tax Reform Act.

Robbie has received numerous prestigious awards throughout his career. In 1987, he received the honorable award of Outstanding Service to President Reagan's Child Safety Partnership from the U.S. Department of Justice. In 1990, Robbie was honored with the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award. And in 1992, he went on to acquire the distinguished Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, Robbie's accomplishments appear to be endless and in some ways they are. The youth of today will reap the rewards of his efforts as will future generations. If there is one thing we can recognize about Robbie Callaway is that he has made a difference in our society. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending Robbie Callaway, an outstanding individual, from whom we can all learn, and one who has helped to improve and enrich all of our lives.

TRIBUTE TO CAMELOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. ADAM SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate Camelot Elementary School in Auburn, WA, for their recent selection as a Blue Ribbon School. It is an honor to have this school in the Ninth Congressional District. Only 263 schools nationwide are awarded this honor. The Blue Ribbon School status is awarded to schools which have strong leadership; a clear vision, and sense of mission that is shared by all connected with the school; high-quality teaching; challenging, up-to-date curriculum; policies and practices that ensure a safe environment conducive to learning; a solid commitment to parental involvement; and evidence that the school helps all students achieve high standards.

I commend the staff, students, and parents of Camelot Elementary School for their hard work in building an effective community for learning. The focus on literacy and assuring students obtain the essential skills needed for life is absolutely necessary and I am glad we

have Camelot Elementary School as an example for how we need to work toward in educating our children.

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES B. POST

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to a courageous young man from my district who persevered to overcome extraordinary circumstances in order to obtain his dream. Dr. James B. Post, a quadriplegic since age 14, recently received his medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

At age 14, a diving accident at a Boy Scout camp left Jim Post paralyzed from the neck down. He cannot move his legs and has only partial use of his arms, yet Jim went on to become an Eagle Scout and later attended King's College in Wilkes-Barre, PA. At King's, Jim studied premed and finished in the top 10 percent of his class.

I have known this young man and his family for many years, and I can attest to the strength of character he demonstrated during his extraordinary struggle not just to survive, but to excel. With the constant love and support of his family, Jim Post rose to meet challenges most teenagers without disabilities never face.

Mr. Speaker, while these accomplishments alone deserve praise, Jim continued to pursue his dream and applied to 10 medical schools. Each of the 10 schools refused him admission because of his disability. However, he did not give up, fighting on television and in the press, his story gained State and national attention and soon found many supporters. His battle for admission led to a State Senate investigation and a 1993 law barring Pennsylvania colleges from discriminating on the basis of disability.

After speaking with faculty at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Jim applied and was accepted on the condition he hire a physician's assistant to help examine patients. Along with this help and with his wife Saretha and son James by his side, Jim began the rigors of medical school undaunted.

Mr. Speaker, Jim Post, not only graduated from medical school, he was admitted to an honor society Alpha Omega Alpha which only admits students in the top 15 percent of the class who possess proper attitude and professionalism toward patients.

Currently, Jim is preparing to begin his internship at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York. He plans to specialize in either nephrology or endocrinology.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. James B. Post is a living testament to the triumph of the human spirit. It is with great pride and admiration that I bring the remarkable accomplishments of this courageous young man to the attention of my colleagues and add my best wishes for his continued success.